



PATENT  
1190-0532P

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Hiroaki SUGIURA et al. Conf.: 1204  
Appl. No.: 09/994,761 Group: 2622  
Filed: November 28, 2001 Examiner: UNASSIGNED  
For: IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD AND IMAGE  
PROCESSING SYSTEM

RECEIVED  
APR 22 2002  
Technology Center 2600

#4  
S-5-02

L E T T E R

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

April 17, 2002

Sir:

Under the provisions of MPEP § 2001.06(b), the Examiner is hereby advised of the following co-pending U.S. Application(s):

<u>Appl. No.</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>	<u>Group</u>
09/457,703	December 9, 1999	2721
09/627,058	July 27, 2000	2775

The subject matter contained in the above-listed co-pending U.S. application(s) may be deemed to relate to the present application, and thus may be material to the prosecution of this instant application.

Copies of cited U.S. patent application(s) (specification, claims, and the drawings) or copies of the portion of the

application which caused it to be cited, including any claims directed to that portion are attached hereto.

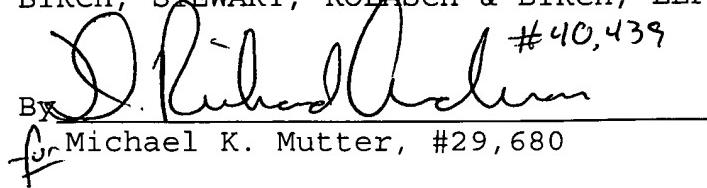
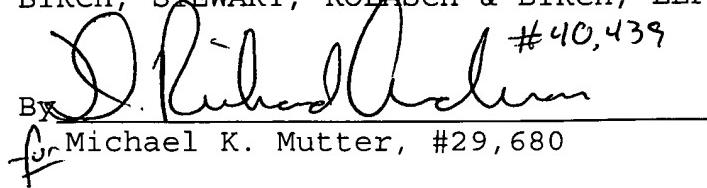
The materials in the envelope are considered trade secrets and are being submitted for consideration under MPEP § 724.

The above-listed co-pending application(s) is(are) not to be construed as prior art. By bringing the above-listed application(s) to the attention of the Examiner, Applicant(s) do(does) NOT waive any confidentiality concerning the above-listed co-pending application(s) or this application. See MPEP § 101. Furthermore, if said application(s) should not mature into patents, such application(s) should be preserved in secrecy under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 122 and 37 C.F.R. § 1.14.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fee required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

  
By   
Michael K. Mutter, #29,680

P.O. Box 747  
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747  
(703) 205-8000

MKM/gf  
1190-0532P